

# Boys Ranch ISD



## On Campus Plan and Procedures for Opening School 2020-2021

On behalf of BRISD Board of Trustees and BRISD Administrative team, we are pleased to present this comprehensive outline for the plan and procedures for opening school for the 2020-2021 academic year. The health and safety of our students, staff members, and visitors is our number one priority and the following guidance is based on what is currently known about the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). These guidelines will be updated as additional information becomes available through Governor Abbott's office, TEA, CDC, and TDHS.

The policies in our plan are designed to minimize risk for yourself and others. It is vital to the health and safety of everyone that our students, staff members, and visitors are fully conscious of these guidelines and take responsibility for following them seriously.

### **On-Campus Plans**

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, BRISD will follow the current CDC recommendations to help minimize the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. The four sets of practices that reduce the likelihood of viral spread are:

- **Provide Notice** – requirements for parental and public notices
- **Prevent** – virus from entering the school
- **Mitigate** – reduce spread of virus within the school
- **Respond** – to confirmed COVID-19 cases

### **Provide Notice**

- A summary of Boys Ranch ISD's "on-campus" plan for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is posted on our district website. The plan designates the building principal on each campus as the person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- Per Texas Education Code §25.092 students must attend a minimum of 90% of the days a course is offered to receive credit. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-2021 school year. Student attendance may be earned through "remote/online" instructional methods.
- Parents may request their child be offered "remote/online" instruction. If a parent chooses "remote/online" instruction, their child may only switch to "on-campus" instruction at the end of the current grading period or obtain approval from superintendent or superintendent designee.
- Participation in extra-curricular activities or UIL sports is approved for both "on-campus" and "remote/online" instructional platforms, provided the student meets all other normal requirements to participate in such activities and/or sports.

## **Prevent - Staff**

- Teachers and staff are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms **daily before** coming to campus (**COVID-19 symptoms are listed at the end of this document**).
- Teachers and staff must report to their immediate supervisor if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus until **re-entry requirements** are met. (**See Re-entry Requirements**)
- Additionally, teachers and staff must report to their immediate supervisor if they had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, must self-quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure. (**See Definition for Close Contact**)

## **Prevent - Students**

- Parents/guardians must ensure each day that they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms, or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Students who display symptoms of COVID-19, are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 should switch to “remote/online” learning until **re-entry requirements** have been met. (**See Re-entry Requirements**)
- Teachers and staff will monitor students and refer them to the campus office if symptoms are present.
- A symptomatic student will be managed as a presumptive COVID-19 positive and all precautions will remain in place until testing confirmation is received. Management includes isolating the student from peers and arranging for immediate pick-up to be transported to the clinic for a medical assessment.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternative location on campus (outside, different classroom, etc.) so that the affected classroom can be disinfected and sanitized.

## **Prevent – Visitors**

- All visitors will be screened prior to entering a BRISD campus building to determine if they have symptoms of COVID-19, (**COVID-19 symptoms are listed at the end of this document**) have been lab-confirmed with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Visitors who do not pass the screening will not be permitted on campus until **re-entry requirements** have been met.
- Any individual who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home throughout the infection period,

and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions of **re-entry requirements** have been met.

## **Mitigate**

**Boys Ranch ISD will employ practices that have been established to decrease the likelihood of COVID-19 spread inside our schools.**

### **Face Coverings**

- Boys Ranch ISD will comply with the governor's executive order requiring the wearing of face masks for all staff, visitors, and students over the age of 10 years old.

### **Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations**

- Alcohol-based sanitizer will be available at the main entry of each campus, in each classroom, and in common areas throughout each campus.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash and sanitize hands including upon returning from outdoors, before eating, and after restroom breaks.

### **Disinfecting Expectations –**

- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Custodial staff will disinfect each classroom and restroom on a daily basis.
- All high touch areas will be disinfected daily.

### **Classroom Logistics –**

- Desks should be placed 6-feet apart where feasibly possible.
- Whenever possible, windows should be opened in classrooms to improve air flow.
- Blankets, pillows, bean bags and other shared non-essential items should be removed from the classroom.
- Each room will have a door stop to prop for no-touch entry between classes.

## **Respond**

If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the school will

- Notify the local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Close off the areas that were heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected.

- Consistent with notification requirements and confidentiality requirements, Boys Ranch ISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified on a particular campus.

## **COVID-19 Symptoms**

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following symptoms in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 ° Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

**\*Employees with symptoms should seek medical care.**

## **Re-entry Requirements**

**Lab-confirmed COVID-19 or Experiencing COVID-19 Symptoms (must meet all three of the following re-entry requirements)**

- At least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medications);
- The individual has improvement of COVID-19 symptoms; and
- At least ten days have passed since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared.

**\*Alternatively, the employee can either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved location that comes back negative for COVID-19.**

## **Employees with Close Contact**

- If the individual remains non-symptomatic, the individual may return to work at the end of the 14-day quarantine period.
- If the individual develops symptoms, the individual should follow the protocol described above for Employees Experiencing COVID-19 Symptoms.

## **Close Contact Defined**

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes.
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them).
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

## **Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning**

With the ever-changing pattern of COVID-19 pandemic, Boys Ranch ISD is prepared to continue to provide quality instruction for our students through synchronous and asynchronous learning. Activities and instruction are designed to ensure our students continue to learn at the pace of current BRISD scope and sequence.

### **Expectations for Synchronous Learning**

- Students attend class on time –per their class schedule
- Students are prepared and ready to learn
- A workplace is designated for the student
- Students will be fully engaged with the teacher virtually.
- Students will be active participants in the class.

### **Expectations for Asynchronous Learning**

- Complete asynchronous activities assigned each day
- Students show proof of participation in virtual instruction by satisfactorily completing assignments to demonstrate evidence of student learning.
- Students and parents communicate with teacher when needing additional assistance, tutoring, etc.

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## **UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines**

The following guidance related to UIL activities, based on the public health situation, as we understand it today, applies to the 2020-2021 school year. This guidance is effective August 1, 2020. Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to this guidance.

Given the varying numbers of COVID-19 cases across different areas of the state, and the vast geographic area in the state of Texas, UIL is presenting modifications for the 2020-21 school year that reflect the situation at this time. UIL will continue to work with state officials and monitor CDC and other federal guidance to determine any potential modifications that may become necessary. Schools should be prepared for the possibility of interruptions in contest schedules. District Executive Committees should work and plan to accommodate, as best possible, for these interruptions.

These guidelines are in addition to guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and intended to be implemented along with [TEA guidance](#), which applies to academic and extracurricular non-UIL activities. The information below includes a requirement for schools to develop a plan for mitigating risk of COVID-19 spread during UIL activities. Schools should take their local context into account and follow all state requirements when considering UIL activities.

It is recommended that each school identify a staff member or group of staff members to serve as compliance officer(s) to oversee effective use of these protocols. Schools must follow all requirements of state authorities in addition to the requirements below.

## **Face Coverings-at UIL Events - Executive Order GA-29**

[Executive Order GA-29](#), regarding face coverings, applies to all UIL activities effective July 3, 2020. This includes the 2020-2021 school year. As the public health situation changes, and/or if subsequent Executive Orders are issued by Governor Greg Abbott, these guidelines may be further modified.

1. For the purposes of this document, face coverings include non-medical grade disposable facemasks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.
2. All employees, parents, visitors and students ten years of age or older must wear face coverings or face shields upon entry to an area where UIL activities are being conducted and when not actively practicing or playing in the contest, unless an exception listed below applies.
3. The face coverings requirements do not apply to a school in a county that meets the requirements of paragraph 11 of [Executive Order GA-29](#), unless the local school system chooses to implement these requirements locally. Even in these circumstances, the wearing of face coverings or face shields is strongly encouraged.

Exceptions to the wearing of face coverings or face shields include:

- Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
- While a person is consuming food or drink;
- When a congregating group of persons maintains at least 6 feet of social distancing; or
- Any other reason or circumstance indicated under [Executive Order GA-29](#).

### **Required Screening before attending or participating in activities:**

If staff have not been screened by the school for purposes of participating in instructional activities, schools must implement these screening protocols before allowing staff to participate in UIL activities.

1. Schools must require staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before participating in UIL activities or entering areas where UIL activities are being conducted. The self-

screening should include staff taking their own temperature. Staff must report to the school if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until they meet the criteria for re-entry.

2. Parents must ensure they do not send a student to participate in UIL activities if the student has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the below conditions for re-entry are met. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well. Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic methods and/or in person. The screening questions should also be asked of a student's parent if that parent will be dropping off or picking up their student from inside areas where UIL activities are being conducted.
3. Before visitors are allowed access to areas where UIL activities are being conducted, school systems must screen all visitors to determine if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, they must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted until they meet the criteria for re-entry. Additionally, school systems must screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so they must remain off campus and away from areas where UIL activities are being conducted. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.
4. Schools are permitted to prevent any individual who fails the screening criteria from being admitted into school facilities or sites where UIL activities are being conducted until they meet the criteria for re-entry as described below. Any individual for whom screening cannot be confirmed should be presumed symptomatic until confirmed otherwise.

### **Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School or in an Area Where UIL Activities Are being Conducted**

- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any UIL activities.

### **Screening Questionnaire Information**

1. When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, school systems must only require the individual to provide a "Yes" or "No" to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation. School systems are not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic. Additionally, they must report to the school if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

2. Once it is determined that individuals who responded “Yes” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, school systems must destroy those individuals’ responses.

## **Performance Areas, Band Halls, Locker Rooms and Other Congregate Settings**

1. Schools should make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available in these areas.
2. All congregate areas should be regularly and frequently cleaned and disinfected including all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, lockers, and restrooms.
3. Any equipment that will be kept in student lockers and/or in these areas should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each day prior to students accessing these areas. Schools should develop a plan for managing the storage, cleaning and disinfecting, and redistribution of student equipment.
4. Schools should consider identifying staff to monitor locker rooms and other areas where students may congregate to ensure effective use of school protocols.
5. Schools must require staff and students to wear face coverings while inside locker rooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, band halls and other areas where students may congregate other than shower facilities.
6. As part of their overall plan, schools should develop a plan for mitigating risk of spreading COVID-19 when disinfecting, cleaning, and laundering items such as towels, practice clothes, and uniforms. This plan should include protocols for redistributing these items to students. Involved staff should be trained specifically on these protocols.

## **Practice and Rehearsal Activities**

In addition to the above general guidelines and rules in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and UIL manuals and handbooks, the following applies to practice activities during the 2020-2021 school year.

1. All surfaces in practice areas should be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
2. Any equipment should be regularly disinfected before, during, and after practice sessions.
3. Schools may provide food, water or other drinks. If they provide these items, schools should do so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items.

## **Game, Contest, and Event Management**

In addition to the above guidelines and rules in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and UIL manuals and handbooks, the following applies to games, scrimmages, and events:

## Teams and Participants

1. Boys Ranch ISD will follow [TEA guidance](#) related to transportation.
2. Teams and participants are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
3. The host site should designate a cleaned and disinfected area for teams to unload and load buses separate from fans, spectators, and other individuals not essential to the team or group.
4. Visiting team /group locker rooms should be cleaned and sanitized by the host site before the visiting team arrives. Visiting teams/groups are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting equipment once it is unloaded. Schools should limit access to these facilities to only students and staff essential for the game, contest, or event.
5. Before each game, contest, or event, schools should follow the screening protocols described above to screen all staff members, contractors, volunteers, sports officials, contest judges, and any individuals otherwise involved in working the event. These individuals should also self-screen as described in these screening protocols.
6. Fan and spectator areas including bleachers, stands, walkways, and other spectator areas should be at least six feet from team /group areas such as team benches or performance areas. Where distancing is not feasible, other methods should be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as face coverings, implementing engineered controls such as physical barriers, or other risk mitigation efforts the school deems appropriate.
7. As previously indicated, water or other drinks and/or food may be provided. Schools or host sites should consider doing so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items.
8. Other areas used by participants, such as press box areas, should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after use. Sites should develop plans for providing access to these areas that limit or remove potential contact between participants and non-participants.
9. The host site should provide sports and contest officials an area to enter and exit separate from fans when possible. Officials should be provided a dressing and meeting area, if applicable, that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival.
10. Pregame or pre-event meetings between teams and/or sports and contest officials should be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals.
11. Pregame and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.
12. All participants should be provided with entry and exit plans for contest areas that maintain separation from non-participants and fans. Individuals not essential to the team or group should not be given access to contest areas, performance areas, courts, or fields at all before, during, or after contests and events.

## **Student Groups not directly involved in the game or contest**

Student groups such as marching bands, cheerleaders, drill teams, and other groups approved by the school district may attend and perform at games or contests in which they are not competing. Schools should consider limiting the number of participants to those essential to the performance.

1. These student groups should remain separate from the game or contest participants at all times. These student groups should avoid mixing with fans or non-group members throughout the game or contest.
2. Student groups are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
3. Schools should consider limiting the number of students and staff given access to the playing areas and ensure protocols for entering and exiting the playing areas are in place.
4. Fans and spectators should be located to provide at least 10 feet of distance from bands playing wind instruments from the stands.
5. These students should maintain appropriate distancing from game or contest participants at all times, including when on the sideline.

## **Spectators, Audiences, Fans and Media**

Schools may allow spectators to attend games, contests, or events within a maximum 50% capacity limitation, provided that appropriate spacing between spectators is maintained according to the protocol, and according to the following:

1. Schools and/or host sites should post visible signs and/or messaging stating any individuals who are confirmed to have, suspected of having, are experiencing symptoms of, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 should not enter the facility.
2. Spectators, audiences, fans and media are required to wear face coverings as described in **Executive Order GA-29**.
3. Sites are encouraged to utilize remote ticketing options to help manage capacity limitations within a maximum 50% occupancy. Paper tickets and programming should be minimized to help avoid transferable materials.
4. If possible, set reserved times for entry to avoid mass arrivals.
5. Groups should maintain at least six feet of distance from other groups at all times, including the process of admission and seating. A group is defined as no more than 10 people including the members of the household and those persons who traveled together to the facility.
6. Schools should not allow seating in consecutive rows, and should block off seating to maintain a minimum six feet of distance between groups.
7. Pathways for spectator ingress and egress should be clearly marked and unobstructed.
8. Schools should provide hand sanitizing stations and/or hand washing stations at entrances and inside the facility.

9. Seating, hand rails, and other common surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected prior to each game or contest.
10. Schools should limit access to working media providing coverage of the event to ensure protocols are followed.

## **Concession Stands and Food Service**

For games, contests, and events that will include concession stands or other food service, the following guidelines apply:

1. Staff and volunteers involved in food service are required to wear face coverings as described in **Executive Order GA-29**.
2. Sites should avoid leaving condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on unoccupied tables or at the counter. Sites should only provide condiments or flatware upon request, and in single use, individually wrapped items.
3. Regularly clean and disinfect the food service counters and areas. Clean and disinfect dining areas (tables, etc.) after each patron departs.
4. Limit contact between the individuals involved in food service and patrons as much as possible. Have employees and volunteers follow proper food-handling protocols.
5. Before each game, schools should follow the screening protocols described above to screen staff and volunteers who will be involved in food service prior to events. These individuals should also self-screen as described in these screening protocols.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **How will Boys Ranch ISD reopen campuses for the 2020-2021 school year?**

- A. Boys Ranch ISD currently plans to open all campuses and provide direct instruction beginning on August 10, 2020. Should this change any time before this date, all concerned parties will be notified directly of the change in plan.

### **Will teachers get to choose if they want a virtual or in-person schedule?**

- A. Staffing decisions will be determined based on instructional delivery. Principals, in cooperation with teachers, will develop work assignments. If a teacher has safety concerns about returning to work on site, they should contact their principal.

### **What will staff do if they have to quarantine due to COVID-19? Will they district provide extra sick or personal days for staff?**

- A. Requirements to quarantine are determined by the health department. In addition to existing leave balances in effect for employees, Boys Ranch ISD will follow all provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which is in effect through December 31, 2020.

### **Will a student's temperature regularly be checked by school officials?**

- A. No. At this time regularly performing a forehead temperature check of otherwise asymptomatic students in school is not recommended by the CDC.

### **What precautions will be in place on each BRISD campus?**

- A. On the first day of school, students will be provided instruction for good hygiene practices, as well as, social distancing etiquette. Increased signage promoting social distancing, disease prevention, and cleaning/disinfecting practices. Classrooms will be arranged to maximize space between students. Face coverings will be required for each staff and student (10+). Teachers will monitor flow in hallways to strongly encourage physical distancing as students pass from class to class.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- Coping With Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks, <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Coping-with-Stress-During-Infectious-Disease-Outbreaks/sma14-4885>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/children.html>
- Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use at Home, at Play, and Out and About, <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/hand-sanitizer-factsheet.pdf>
- NASP COVID-19 Resource Center, <https://www.nasponline.org/COVID-19>
-